



## State Representative DebraLee Hovey

Dear Friends,

The 2005 legislative session for the most part was a good one for Monroe and Newtown. Annual funding for local schools and road maintenance is up from last year and several grants were approved for 112th District projects.

In addition, several initiatives I pursued that will benefit Monroe and Newtown - and other Connecticut towns - were rewarded with success.

The state Department of Public Utility Control endorsed my request for a ruling affirming that biodiesel is a renewable energy source. The finding could encourage wider use of biodiesel fuel, which would improve air quality and mean better respiratory health for thousands of Connecticut residents.

A measure I originally proposed to prevent technical errors similar to the one that almost kept me from appearing on the ballot last year as the endorsed Republican candidate for the 112th District became law this year.

Working with Education Committee co-chair Senator Tom Gaffey, I helped enact a measure requiring that state education grants to towns be used only for educational purposes.

State grants for the 112th District include:

- \$6,837,000 to help pay for construction of a new bridge to replace the Route 34 Stevenson Dam Bridge over the Housatonic River.
- \$3,000 to help Fanfare Concerts Ltd., Inc. promote Baroque Music resources for fourth grade students in Monroe public schools.
- \$2,000 for the Monroe Historical Society to support production of a 'Trolley Through Time' tour of Historic Monroe and Stepney.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at the Connecticut General Assembly in Hartford.

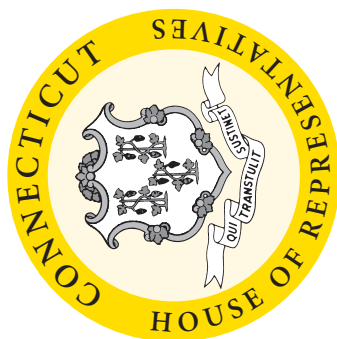
Sincerely,

*DebraLee Hovey*



Rep. Hovey (second from left) along with other state legislators helped raise over \$1,800 for Lifestar Helicopter emergency medical services.

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## State Representative DEBRALEE HOVEY Proudly Serving the 112<sup>th</sup> District Monroe ★ Newtown



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## 2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**DEBRALEE HOVEY**  
Proudly Serving the 112<sup>th</sup> District  
Monroe ★ Newtown





**Representative Hovey speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.**

## PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

### Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 session, as in previous years, I worked on behalf of the average family. I know how hard people work in Connecticut, which has the highest federal, state and local taxes per person as well as the largest per capita state debt.

### Protecting Property Rights

I voted to support Connecticut property owners in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision allowing the City of New London to seize residents' homes to make way for an economic development project. I voted for a proposal to limit the authority of state and local governments to take property through eminent domain.

### Fighting for Fair School Funding

I will continue to fight for a more equitable distribution of state education aid to our towns to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. Under the current school aid formula the state sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban communities receive as little as \$100 per student.

### Ethics Reform

The State Ethics Commission was abolished and replaced with a Citizens Ethics Advisory Board and Office of State Ethics under an act I supported.

### Reforming the State Contracting Process

Governor Rell implemented reforms I support to restore trust in the integrity of the state contracting process by ensuring contracts are awarded on their merits, not in return for bribes and favors.

### Campaign Finance

I have worked to remove special interest money from political campaigns for many years and will continue to fight for this kind of reform in the future. Strict financial limits and full disclosure are a better approach than using our tax dollars for political campaigns.

### Transportation Action

For Fairfield County, the most important legislative action taken in 2005 was the adoption of the governor's \$1.3-billion transportation package, which I supported. It provides funding to acquire 342 new passenger railcars for Metro-North; purchase more transit buses; and eliminate numerous I-95 bottlenecks.

### Cell Phone Ban

Based on recommendations by law enforcement officials and many members of the public, a new law I supported prohibits the use of hand-held phones while driving.



**Representative Hovey gets together with Revolutionary War re-enactors who participated in Newtown's Tercentennial celebration earlier this year.**

### Stem Cell Research

I voted for a law committing \$10 million a year from surplus funds for stem cell research that may lead to breakthroughs in combating illness. The act also bans human cloning.

### Clean Car Incentive Program

I cosponsored legislation to require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a plan to reduce the sales tax for new motor vehicles that have low greenhouse gas emissions.

### Clean Diesel Plan

I supported an act requiring the state to develop a plan to reduce the health risks from diesel pollution and to meet federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter.

### Bi-state Long Island Sound Protection

I voted for a law that creates a New York - Connecticut Committee to help protect Long Island Sound. The committee would recommend legislation to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impact of proposed industrial or other uses of the Sound's public trust resources.

### Coverage for Infertility Treatment

Women will be assured that medically necessary infertility treatment will be covered by health insurance under a new law I originally introduced and cosponsored.

### Nursing Home Fire Safety

To ensure the safety of nursing home residents, I voted for a law that requires nursing homes to install fire extinguishing systems by July 31, 2007, and requires them to be installed throughout the nursing home.

### Consumer Protection

I cosponsored legislation prohibiting the sale of gift certificates with expiration dates to enable people who receive gift cards to redeem them when they choose to do so. I also voted for laws to help protect consumers from becoming victims of identity theft and bank fraud and to prohibit cell phone companies from disclosing a customer's cell phone number, name, or address to another person without the subscriber's permission.

### Protecting Citizen Soldiers

I supported legislation that provides workers compensation benefits to members of the Connecticut National Guard when they are called to active duty.

## Encouraging Research and Development in CT

I supported legislation that requires the state Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish four new grant programs to prepare college students for careers in research and development and spur research collaboration between academia and industry.

### Child Safety

I cosponsored legislation that strengthens a state statute requiring young children riding in motor vehicles to wear seat belts and other restraint systems to help prevent serious and possibly fatal injuries if an accident occurs.

### Restricted Driving

Sixteen- and seventeen-year olds learning to drive under learner's permits now are required to have a minimum of twenty instead of eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they qualify for drivers' licenses under a law I supported.

### ID Requirement for Motor Vehicle Registration

The Department of Motor Vehicles can require anyone who tries to register a motor vehicle to provide satisfactory personal identification, and obtain Connecticut driver's licenses or non-driver photo identification cards, under a new law I supported.

### Preserving Eligibility for STEAP Grants

I voted for a law enabling towns to continue qualifying for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants when they no longer meet all of the program's eligibility criteria.

### State Budget

The legislature adopted a \$31-billion two-year budget that raised spending 9 percent the first year and 12 percent over two years. The budget increases taxes on employers and on estates valued at more than \$2 million. It also violates the state's constitutional spending cap. I could not support the excessive spending and tax increases this budget mandates.



**Representative Hovey discusses issues affecting the elderly with seniors while visiting the Monroe Senior Center.**